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Pol 23-9 LIBYA

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NSAE-00 NSC-10 P-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-20 USIA-12 IO-13 UCF-05
AID-28 E-15 COM-08 FRB-02 TRSY-11 SIL-01 LAB-06 INT-06 CU-04
RSR-01 PC-04 /216 W

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R 151447Z SEP 69
FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4832
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BENGHAZI
AMEMBASSS BONN
AMEMBASSY FORTLAMY
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
CINCUSAFE
CINCEUR
RUDONBA/CINCUSNAVEUR
COMSIXTHFLT
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES
AMEMBASSY BAIDA UNN

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 TRIPOLI 2478

SUBJ: "POPULAR PRESSURE" FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF REVOLUTIONARY TRIBUNAL

REF: STATE 154676 Pol 23-9 Libya

SUMMARY:

Tripoli 2478 9.15.69

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1. SINCE SEP 11, TRIPOLI PRESS HAS BEEN WAGING DAILY CAMPAIGN FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF REVOLUTIONARY TRIBUNAL TO TRY "SENIOR RESPONSIBLES" OF OLD REGIME WHO USED THEIR OFFICIAL POSITIONS TO AMASS GREAT WEALTH AT EXPENSE OF THE PEOPLE. THREE-INCH RED BANNER HEADLINE IN SEP 11 'AL-RAA'ID' DECLARED "IN RESPONSE UNANIMOUS POPULAR DEMAND, RCC IS CONSIDERING ESTABLISHMENT REVOLUTIONARY TRIBUNAL" AND ASSERTED DEMAND EVIDENT IN DEMONSTRATIONS AND "THOUSANDS OF TELEGRAMS". RELATED SLOGAN ASKING "WHERE DID YOU GET THIS?" HAS BEEN APPEARING REGULARLY IN NEWSPAPER CARTOONS AND ON RADIO/TV FOR ROUGHLY WEEK AND HAS BEEN PAINTED ON HOUSES OF WEALTHY BUSINESSMEN.

2. 'AL-YOUM' EDITORIAL SEP 12 INTENSIFIED AND ENLARGED SCOPE OF DEMAND FOR TRIAL OF ESTABLISHMENT PROFITEERS. EDITOR ASSERTED RESPONSIBILITY FOR CORRUPTION DOES NOT FALL ON GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ALONE BUT ON KING AND BIG BUSINESSMEN AS WELL. IN SHARP PERSONAL ATTACK ON KING, AL-YOUM CHARGED KING WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR SPREAD "DISEASES OF BRIBERY, FAVORITISM, INFLUENCE PEDDLING, AND MORAL DECAY". EDITOR DECLARED KING'S ABIDCATION IS NOT RPT NOT SUFFICIENT, WARNED PEOPLE SHOULD NOT BE SATISFIED WITH "HIS QUAVERING WORDS AND HIS COUNTERFEIT HUMILITY", AND CALLED FOR FIRST TRIAL TO BE THAT OF KING IN ABSENTIA IF NECESSARY. AFTER NOTING THAT BIG BUSINESSMEN WERE "EXCEEDINGLY SKILLFUL IN GIVING VILLAS, FARMS, BIG CARS, AND FOREIGN BANK ACCOUNTS" TO OFFICIALS WHO COOPERATED WITH THEM AND SANCTIONED THEIR ACTIVITIES, EDITORIAL ASSERTED BUSINESSMEN WERE PARTNERS OF KING AND FORMER OFFICIALS IN CORRUPTION, AND CALLED FOR PROSECUTION OF ALL THREE GROUPS. AL-YOUM ALSO REPORTED (A) INVESTIGATION OF OLD REGIME OFFICIALS HAD ALREADY BEGUN, (B) MEASURES WILL BE TAKEN TO RECOVER FUNDS MISAPPROPRIATED BY THOSE WHO BECAME RICH AT EXPENSE OF WORKERS, AND (C) STRICT FINANCIAL CONTROLS WILL BE INTRODUCED.

3. SAME DAY AL-RAA'ID DECLARED OLD REGIME DID NOTHING FOR WORKING CLASS DURING PAST 10 YEARS, THAT PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN FOR WELFARE WORKERS ENDED UP BENEFITTING ONLY FAVORITES AND OPPORTUNISTS. ABU HARRUUS (EDITOR AND PUBLISHER) IN SIGNED EDITORIAL CRITICIZED EXPENDITURE "MILLIONS OF POUNDS" TO PIPE WATER TO KING'S RESIDENCE IN TOBRUK, BUILD AND

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FURNISH LAVISH GOVERNMENT OFFICE BUILDINGS, AND PURCHASE LARGE NUMBERS MERCEDES FOR GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL.

4. ON SEP 13 ABU HARRUUS REITERATED CALL FOR ESTABLISHMENT SPECIAL COURTS TO TRY THOSE WHO MISUSED POWER AND COMMITTED CRIMES AGAINST STUDENTS AND HONEST POLITICIANS. AL-YOUM PUBLISHED OPEN LETTER TO PRIME MINISTER FROM 'UMAR AL-BADRI (FREE LANCE JOURNALIST, FORMER SPRINGER FOR LONDON (ECONOMIST), AND BRIEFLY ESSO PUBLIC RELATIONS EMPLOYEE) CALLING FOR ESTABLISHMENT REVOLUTIONARY TRIBUNALS TO CALL OLD REGIME MINISTERS, OTHER OFFICIALS, AND MEMBERS PARLIAMENT TO ACCOUNT ON BASIS INDIVIDUAL AND JOINT RESPONSIBILITY. BADRI ALSO ADVOCATED ENACTMENT RETROACTIVE ILLICIT PROFITS LAW.

5. REPORTING AGAIN THAT INVESTIGATIONS OF CORRUPT OLD REGIME FIGURES ARE UNDERWAY, AL-RAA'ID SEP 14 ADDED THAT NEW REGIME INTENDS CARRY OUT THOROUGH AND JUST REVIEW OF EACH CASE BEFORE MAKING ANY ANNOUNCEMENTS BUT STRESSED FACTS WILL BE PUBLICIZED. AL-YOUM SAME DAY CARRIED LONG ARTICLE ON EXTENT CORRUPTION UNDER OLD REGIME FOCUSING ON MANIPULATION OF GOVERNMENT TENDER PROCESS.

6. LEAD FRONT-PAGE BANNER HEADLINE STORY IN BOTH AL-RAA'ID AND AL-YOUM SEP 15 IS REPORT OF "POPULAR CONGRESS" OF MEMBERS LABOR, STUDENT, AND TEACHERS UNION HELD IN TRIPOLI STADIUM PREVIOUS DAY. ONE OF RESOLUTIONS PASSED BY MASS MEETING CALLED FOR
ESTABLISHMENT REVOLUTIONARY COURT TO "BRING TO ACCOUNT CORRUPT GROUP OF TREASONOUS POLITICIANS REACTIONARIES, AGENTS OF CLASS INTEREST, AND THOSE TRAFFICKING IN INTERESTS OF PEOPLE TO BRING THEM INTO COURT AND FREEZE THEIR ASSETS."
GP-4.
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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-17 NEA-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 JPM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-10 P-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-20 USIA-12 IO-13 UCF-05
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R 151447Z SEP 69
FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
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AMEMBASSY BAIDA UNN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 TRIPOLI 2478

SUBJ: "POPULAR PRESSURE" FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF REVOLUTIONARY TRIBUNAL

SUMMARY:

7. POLITICALLY CONSCIOUS RESIDENTS TRIPOLI FULLY EXPECT LARGE NUMBER SENIOR OFFICIALS AND BUSINESSMEN WILL BE

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TRIED WITH GREAT FANFARE ON CHARGES CORRUPTION. WHILE THEY EXPECT EMPHASIS WILL BE ON CIVILIAN AND POLICE OFFICIALS IN POWER AT TIME OF COUP AND PROMINENT BUSINESSMEN, THEY BELIEVE TRIALS ONCE UNDER WAY MAY DELVE BACK INTO PAST AS FAR AS YIN 'UTHMAAN. RUMORS CIRCULATING PERSISTENTLY IN TRPPOLI SINCE SEP 3 ASSERT NEW REGIME HAS LIST OF 20, 25 OR 30 OF MOST CORRUPT OFFICIALS AND BUSINESSMEN WHOM IT IS DETERMINED TO PROSECUTE. ALL VERSIONS OF LIST INCLUDE FORMER PRIME MINISTER BAKKUUSH FOR ALLEGED BAC MISSILE DEAL KICK-BACK, FORMER MINISTER PETROLEUM KHALIIFAH MUUSA, MUHAMMAD NGA (WHO UNANIMOUSLY CHARACTERIZED AS

USAWNXJS#"BAG MAN"), AND FORMER OIL UNDERSECRETARY HANGAARI. FORMER MINISTERS B'AYYU AND SALHIIN, SENATOR TAAHIR 'UGHBY, AND FORMER POLICE BRIGADIER AGHIIL FIGURE ON MANY LISTS. ALL OF ABOVE EXCEPT MUUSA AND NGA ARE ALREADY UNDER ARREST (ALTHOUGH MUUSA REPORTEDLY ARRESTED SEP 13 WHEN HE ATTEMPTED ENTER LIBYA AT TUNISIAN BORDER). HANGAARI INEXPLICABLY RETURNED TO TRPPOLI SEP 12 AND WAS IMMEDIATELY JAILED.

8. NO FIRM INDICATIONS AS YET WHAT PUNISHMENT MIGHT BE METED OUT BY REVOLUTIONARY TRIBUNALS. EMBASSY ARAB ADVISOR REPORTS THAT FORMER MP DISCOUNTS POSSIBILITY PRISON TERMS, BUT IS CONVINCED PRINCIPAL OFFENDERS WILL BE STRIPPED OF ALL THEIR UNEXPLAINED WEALTH. OTHERS, HOWEVER, ARE CONCERNED TRIALS MAY DEGENERATE INTO WITCH HUNT AND FEAR MUCH MORE STRINGENT AND SUMMARY "JUSTICE". MEANWHILE, RCC REPRESENTATIVES ARE ROUNDING UP EVIDENCE. THEY ARE KNOWN TO HAVE INTERROGATED PROMINENT CARPET MERCHANT WHO BID SUCCESSFULLY ON MANY GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS, REFERRING TO INVOICES, CUSTOMS DOCUMENTS, AND BID PROPOSALS PULLED OUT OF GOVERNMENT FILES. RCC REPS DEMANDED EXPLANATIONS FOR DOUBLING AND TRIPLING OF UNIT PRICES IN BIDS TO GOVERNMENT.

9. WHILE INDEPENDENT PRESS HAS SO FAR FOCUSSED ON CORRUPTION, LIBYAN NEWS AGENCY COMMENTATOR CALLED ATTENTION TO "PERSECUTION OF HONORABLE CITIZENS AND NATIONAL ELEMENTS" BY GESTAPO-LIKE POLICE OF OLD REGIME. CHARGING OLD REGIME DOMINATED AND OPPRESSED CITIZENS AND COMMITTED ATROCITIES, LNA ASSERTED PEOPLE STILL REMEMBER 1967 WHEN

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NATIONAL ELEMENTS WERE JAILED FOR CRITICISM OF ROTTEN REGIME. SINCE NEW PRIME MINISTER AND NEW OIL MINISTER WERE AMONG THOSE JAILED (AND PM WAS REPORTEDLY BEATEN VERY BADLY BY POLICE WHILE IN PRISON), LNA COMMENTARY MAY VERY WELL PRESAGE SHOW TRIAL OF SECURITY FORCE OFFICERS AND MINISTRY JUSTICE OFFICIALS BY PROUECTED REVOLUTIONARY TRPBUNAL. ARMED SOLDIERS SEARCHED PERSISTENTLY FOR JUDGE HAADI TUURKI WHO PRESIDED OVER 1968 TRIALS OF POPULAR CONFERENCE AND ANM OPPOSITIONISTS. JUDGE, HOWEVER, WAS ABROAD AT TIME OF COUP. WHEN HE INEXPLICABLY RETURNED SEP 12, HE WAS IMMEDIATELY ARRESTED AT AIRPORT.

10. TO DATE, BOTH RCC AND CIVILIAN CABINET HAVE MAINTAINED COMPLETE SILENCE ON POPULAR DEMAND FOR REVOLUTIONARY TRIBUNAL. PRESS CAMPAIGN, HOWEVER, IF NOT INSPIRED BY RERME #, HAS CERTAINLY NOT BEEN OPPOSED BY NEW AUTHORITIES. ALL OF WHICH IS DEPRESSINGLY REMINISCENT OF IRAQ IN 1958 AND 1959.
GP-4.
PALMER

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